

The Caledonian.

INCLUDED TO BE QUARANTINED. — There was once a little, slim-built fellow, rich as a Jew, and independent as the devil; riding along a highway in the state of Georgia, when he overtook a man dragging a drove of hogs by the help of a big, raw-boned, six-foot-two specimen of humanity. Stopping the last-named individual, he accosted him—

"I say, are these your hogs?"

"No, sir; I'm to work by the month."

"What pay might you be getting, friend?"

"Ten dollars a month, and whisky thrown in," was the reply.

"Well, look here, I'm a weak, little, lousy fellow, and people are apt to impose upon me, d'ye see. Now, I'll give you twenty-five dollars a month to ride along with me and protect me," said Mr. Gardner. "But," he added, as a thought struck him, "how might you bear the fight?"

"Never been licked in my life," rejoined the six-footer.

"Just the man I want. It's a bargain!" quipped Gardner.

Six footer ruminated. Twenty-five dollars—double wages—nothing to do but to ride around and smash a fellow's mug occasionally when he's sass."

Six-footer accepted.

They rode along till, just at night, they reached a village. Dismounting at the door, they went in. Gardner immediately singled out the biggest man in the room, and picked a fass with him. After considerable premonitory jasping, Gardner turned to his fighting friend, and intimated that the flogging of that man had become a sad necessity.

Six-footer peeled, went in, and came out first.

The next night, at another hotel, the same scene was re-enacted—Gardner getting into a row with the biggest man in the place, and six-footer doing the flogging.

At last, on the third day, they came to a ferry kept by a huge double-fisted man, who had never been licked in his life. While crossing the river, Gardner, as usual, began to find fault and "blow." The ferrymen naturally got mad, threw things around, and told him his opinion of their kind. Gardner then turned to his friend and gently broke the intelligence to him, that he was sorry, but that it was absolutely necessary to thrash that ferrymen.

Six-footer nodded his head, but said nothing. It was plainly to be seen that he did not relish the job, but the way he struggled his shoulders, there was no help for it. So when they reached the shore, both stripped, and at it they went. Up and down the bank, over the sand, into the water they fought, scratched, gouged, hit, and rolled, till at the end of an hour, the ferrymen gave in. Six-footer was triumphant, but it had been tough work. Going up to his employer, he scratch'd his head for a moment, and then broke forth:

"Look here, Mr. Gardner, your salary sets mighty well, but—I'm—of—the—opinion that you are *inclined* to be quarantinee. Here I've only been with you three days, and licked the three biggest men in the country. I think this firm had better dissolve, for you see, Mr. Gardner, I'm afraid, you're inclined to be quarantinee, and I reckon I draw—*Tahoma Gazette*.

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